Additional sleeper berth in trains

†1628. SHRI OM PRAKASH MATHUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether her Ministry has taken a decision to the effect that a third sleeper would be added in the gallery in Garib Rath trains and in the second class reserved coaches;

(b) if so, in how many coaches has this been added;

(c) whether the department is aware of the inconvenience faced by the passengers as a result thereof; and

(d) whether there is any proposal to discontinue this type of scheme in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) High Capacity Garib Rath AC-3 Tier coaches have been originally designed and manufactured with a provision of side middle berth arrangement with a view to provide affordable AC travel to the passengers.

With a view to enhance passenger carrying capacity, it was also thought to have an additional longitudinal side middle berth in Second Class reserved (Sleeper) coach.

(b) About 5500 sleeper class coaches were provided with such berths.

(c) and '(d) The policy has been reviewed and it has now been decided to discontinue the scheme of provision of longitudinal side middle berths in sleeper class coaches. Such berths provided in the already modified coaches are being gradually removed.

Review of catering policy

1629. SHRI T.T. V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to review catering policy in view of poor quality of food served in trains;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Complaints have been received regarding quality of food served on trains. Railway endeavours to supply good quality food as it is an important passenger amenity area on the railway. The catering policy is under review and a comprehensive action plan is under preparation.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.